

File
Excerpts

A LIVABLE ENVIRONMENT FOR WILDLIFE IS A QUALITY ENVIRONMENT FOR MAN



VOLUME V—NO. 3

MONTANA FISH GAME DEPARTMENT

MARCH, 1970



Every organism is the product of its particular environment.

Wildlife Is Like It Is

By Joe Egan

People are in favor of truth, integrity, honesty . . . they believe a spade should be called a spade, and much is being said nowadays about "telling it like it is". Telling it like it is, for many, won't be what they want to hear!

Water is to fish what air is to mice and men—they are the mediums in which the respective animals are born, reproduce, and die. These mediums are essential in that they are the places that fish, mice and men have been relegated to live in;

essential in that they provide the ingredients absolutely necessary to sustain life. All living organisms—plants, animals, bacteria—are totally and completely dependent upon and at the same time are products of the environment. If the environment is

of good quality and in good condition, then the organisms living there will be of good quality and in good condition. **And that's like it is.** In the case of our wildlife, it is obvious they, too, are totally and completely dependent upon their environment. If their environment is altered, degraded, or destroyed, the wildlife will be altered, degraded, or destroyed, **and that's like it is.**

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, He said, "It is good". And it was good, the essential ingredients for life being arranged and available in exactly the right manner and in exactly the right way. And then the Creator gave man the charge of being ". . . the stewards of the land . . .". Right then and there, things probably started going downhill. W. C. Lowdermilk, in his "Conquest of the Land Through 7,000 Years" (Agric. Info. Bull. No. 99), leaves little doubt of man's failure to be a "steward" of the biblical lands.

In our own country, and in our own time, we have the Potomac River, Lake Erie, the Mississippi River, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Los Angeles; all are "fine" examples of man's ability as a "steward of the land". In Montana, we have, during our short one hundred or so years, turned many creeks upside down looking for gold, "utilized" our prairies until they were nearly bare, smoked up the air in several places, and dried up, muddied up, and polluted lots of water. **And that's like it is.**



Wildlife are actually indices to conditions of our own environment.

To wildlife, which are actually indices to the conditions of our own environment, what do these "changes" mean? It simply means some waters will no longer produce or even support fish. It means some areas will no longer produce or even support upland birds, deer, or frogs. Oh, we'll initiate all kinds of temporary schemes aimed at the animals and fish or at people to "conserve" our wildlife resources and heritage. These will mostly be meaningless programs like unplanned fish planting, closing the hunting season, setting aside "preserves". Meanwhile, out where things really count, there will be oil well leaks, taconite wastes, pesticides, "economic benefits" from pulp mills, special interest on public lands, "short grass seasons", dams, highways.

People must quit fooling them-

selves. When a stream is polluted or dewatered, it ceases to produce or maintain fish. When a sage grouse's environment is altered, reduced or eliminated, its ability to reproduce or maintain itself does exactly the same thing. It is ridiculous to suppose that wild animals live forever if they are not hunted, yet this seems to be the thinking underlying suggestions to do something for a declining species other than to take care of its environment. After each breeding season, **every** wildlife animal produces more offsprings than could possibly survive even in excellent environment. The "surplus" is scheduled for "harvest" by disease, predators, man, or whatever-you. The "survivors" are scheduled to maintain the species. **That just happens to be the way it is.** But as the quality and quantity of the environment declines, then so does the "harvestable" wildlife crop. You can plant all the fish, birds, elk, or whatever—close the season, restrict the bag, but the volume is a product of the environment. **Environment's the item that needs attention. And that's just how it is.**

Wildlife can not be separated from the land, air, and water; they are tied to it just the same as we are. However, they were not endowed with the fantastic intelligence we

were, and when their land, air, and water gets full of garbage, chemicals, highways, cans, car bodies, domestic sewage, smog, soot, oil wells, fences, they diminish in numbers and even disappear. **And that's the way it is!!!**

But, it doesn't have to be that way . . .

Maintaining wildlife environment in good condition means a little more than just producing more wildlife to hunt and enjoy. It also means that healthy wildlife indicates a healthy human environment, and everybody is in favor of that. There is probably nobody who would say, "We don't want a clean outdoors, we don't want clean, unpolluted water, we don't want clean, unpolluted air!" But, there are people who imply that Montanans will simply have to tolerate some pollution with development. There apparently is some strange reasoning sequence that concludes that if cleaning up or preventing pollution detracts from someone's profit, it is not desirable or perhaps even illegal!! This bizarre reasoning process even suggests that as long as there is some real or imagined economic contribution to the community, the state, or in some cases even the nation, the residents of that area should revel in their polluted environment. This unique

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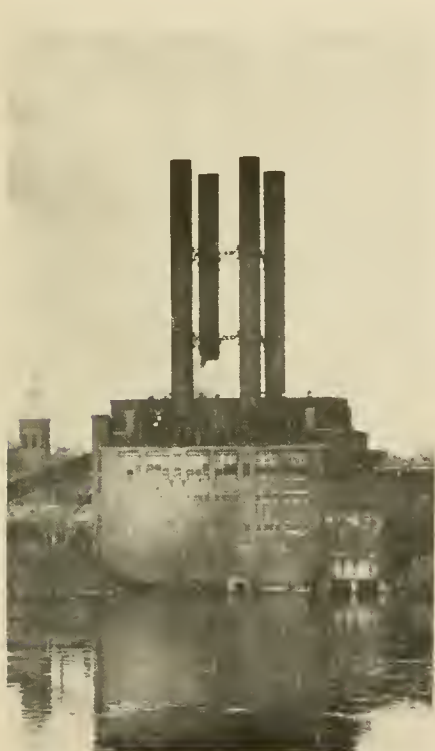
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Edited by Vernon Craig

thought process infers that any development, regardless of how it's operated, will automatically make Montana a better place to live.

Do you think people in Chicago, Pennsylvania, 'Frisco, or Des Moines have a better deal than Montanans? Do you think their unhampered "development" has resulted in lower taxes, cleaner air, cleaner water? A major problem in the U.S.A. right now is polluted air, water, and land. Montana's pollution or garbage disposal problems are, of course, not of the magnitude experienced by our Eastern and West Coast brothers. But if we don't pay attention, or if we accept statements like, "... Our state needs industry to broaden our tax base ...", "... Montana needs industry more than trout ...", "Industrial development will enhance our economic climate ...", without understanding all the implications or without an absolute acceptance of the responsibilities that go with them—before, during and after—**then Montanans will deserve what they get. And that's the way it will be.**

Although our problems of development and pollution are not serious, Montana is not a virgin. We have air, water, and land pollution.



Pollution problems in the United States did not crop up overnight. It was a "little by little" operation.



Maintaining wildlife environment in good condition means a little more than just producing more wildlife to hunt and enjoy. It also means that healthy wildlife indicates a healthy human environment.

During the last decade, pollution in Montana did not decrease. Many Montana cities are facing or will face a serious problem concerning the disposal of domestic garbage. The Yellowstone River is polluted, so is the Missouri, and so is the Clark Fork of the Columbia. The air problems of Missoula and Billings are real. Pollution problems around the Great Lakes, along the East Coast (both in and adjacent to the ocean), and in a myriad of other places did not just happen or crop up overnight. It was a "little by little" operation. It was allowed "little by little" because someone said, "it's just a little smoke which won't really hurt anything, and besides, look at all the people it will employ while it puts a big payroll into 'our town's economy!'" Nobody says, "We don't want a clean outdoors", but some are essentially saying, "Money is better than clean air, clean water, clean land!" But is a big payroll better than a clean environment? Are property taxes really lower for persons in industrial areas than for those who live in the "undeveloped" areas?

Do they pay less for a drink of water or a bath? Do they pay less for their hunting or fishing (if they have any at all!)? Do they have a better deal? Montanans seem to be acting like sheep—they do a lot of bleating while being led to slaughter. **And that's the way it is!!!**

Development need not result in pollution. This is the 20th Century; modern technology has or can solve smoke and smog problems; clean water must not be some unthinkable term with development. Natural resources can and should be used, but it is not necessary to pollute and dirty the whole countryside in the process. In the coal mines of old, a canary was taken underground with the men. When the canary keeled over, it was time for the men to go topside. The canary has keeled over in many places in the United States. In Montana, there are a few places the canary has already gotten sick. It is time to say, "Pardner, make all the boards, gasoline, roads, dams, you want, but don't make the canary sick. If you do, we'll close your outfit down, **and that's the way it is.**"

Director's Column



Two hundred fifty sportsmen who would have gone to court in previous years were not arrested during the last six months under a new policy adopted by the Montana Fish and Game Commission. Fish and Game Wardens now have the power to decide in the field whether or not persons who may be technically in violation of a law must face the consequences in court.

For many years the point has been argued whether an Enforcement Officer should be required to process every case through court, regardless of circumstances, or whether he should have the discretionary power to decide on the spot if the indicated violation is serious enough to justify the cost and personal inconvenience of court. Once the decision is made to process a case through the courts,

there is a cost both in time and in money to the state and to the defendant, regardless of the outcome. For this reason, the Commission has enacted the "Courtesy Citation" policy to relieve persons of the cost and time of defense in cases where the indication of violation does not justify court action.

What type of cases are we talking about? Let's consider the big game hunter who has legally killed a deer, and properly filled out and punched his tag. Rather than attaching the tag to the animal, which must be dragged through rocky terrain, he has kept the tag in his pocket. Technically, he is in violation of the law, but by the new Commission policy he would be eligible for a Courtesy Citation. Circumstances surrounding this incident do not indicate an attempt or intent to violate or harm the resource or his fellow hunters.

How about the case of a fisherman who, while winter fishing through the ice, lays down his pole with baited hook still in the water and strolls over to visit a companion a few feet away? While visiting, he keeps an eye on his pole. In effect he is actively fishing although he may not be in strict compliance with the legal requirement that his fishing rod must be in his immediate control.

As a guideline in determining which course to follow, the warden

would view this situation in the light of whether the man was actively fishing; that is, was he close to and paying attention to the fishing pole? Might the person be considered as setline fishing while he was off sleeping, picnicking or engaged in some other activity that would take his attention away from fishing? In the final analysis, each situation will have to be judged and decided in the field by the warden within the limits of the general guidelines set down by the Commission in our policy statement.

In addition to relieving sportsmen of unwarranted court involvement, the new Courtesy Citation policy will also provide a firm basis to review laws and regulations, and provide statistics to evaluate the effectiveness of these laws and regulations.

In other words, when a number of sportsmen are found in possible violation of a technical regulation, then that regulation should be evaluated and very possibly amended to provide for a more uniform and acceptable application.

We are now confident this new Commission approach is best serving the interests of all Montana sportsmen, and at the same time providing a more sound basis for laws and regulations governing resource management.

Frank H. Dunkle

Making of a Warden

By Don Malmberg

The wind has stopped and fresh snow sparkles under a bright moon. Deer and elk have ventured to favored feeding grounds. There are men nearby too—some with spotlights and rifles, and some with badges. For the men with spotlights and rifles, the night will be a risky game. For the men with badges, the night is one of many long bone-chilling vigils that is a part of their jobs.

Why do men get involved in game offenses by violating game laws? Persons who have studied criminal behavior tell us there are basically two ingredients for getting involved. The first is a desire for personal gain by the individual who decides

to take his chances in full knowledge of his wrong doing. Second is the **opportunity** to do so. Wildlife is so widespread that the opportunities of committing violations against them are numerous. In order to make these opportunities less inviting, there must be other men involved in the enforcement phases of game offenses. These essential enforcement agents are state game wardens.

The Montana Fish and Game Department receives approximately 125-150 applications for the position of State Fish and Game Warden each year. There are about six men selected for this position biennially from the 250-300 men applying.

Those who pass a two hour written examination, pass a forty-five minute oral interview, pass a physical examination, and graduate from



Training officer Don Malmberg (right) checks out students during a hunter safety training program.

a month-long training school are of one type. Their backgrounds may vary greatly. Some will have bachelor degrees in wildlife. Some will

have been peace officers with a city's or sheriff's office for several years. Still others will have been refrigerator repairmen, carpenters, ranchers, or deliverymen. Yet all of these men have a desire to work out-of-doors, away from a timeclock; they have a need for a career; they are a jack-of-all-trades; they enjoy meeting the sportsmen and working with them for the protection of the wildlife. Along with these traits, they develop an uncanny knack for detecting game

violations whether it will be while patrolling a country road or just talking to men in the field.

It is recognized that the enforcement of fish and game laws does not provide solutions to all the problems of wildlife management, but it is vital to conservation and the wildlife resources. It is the field warden who is the backbone of the wildlife law enforcement program.

Today the game warden is hired

by competitive examination for a profession where he must master nearly every task his department puts before him. There may be more interesting ways to earn a living—but not many.

The warden's job is a curious blend of responsibility and freedom. His position is envied; he has opportunity to be of service to his fellow citizens and to inspire his most fascinating topic—the out-of-doors.

Roads to Wilderness —That Was

By Richard Weckwerth

Persons who look down on Montana's western mountains for the first time have a number of surprises. One of the most startling is the multitude of roads that are visible from an aerial vantage point. Like the spreading branches of a malignancy roads probe into almost every cranny of the mountains and make access easy to what was wilderness but a few years ago.

Do you realize there is approximately one mile of road for every 1.5 square miles of land in the Hungry Horse and Coram Ranger Districts of the Flathead National Forest?

Presently there are logging roads situated in almost every major drainage on both sides of Hungry Horse Reservoir and the South Fork of Flathead River from the Hungry Horse Dam to Bunker Creek with the exception of the Upper and Lower Twin Creeks. As of 1969, there were 617 miles of roads located in the Coram, Hungry Horse, and Spotted Bear Ranger Districts. The Coram District leads with 279 miles, the Hungry Horse District has 274 miles, and the Spotted Bear District has 64 miles. Present plans call for an increase of existing roads in the Spotted Bear District. The most important of which, in the interest of game management, will be the Dean Ridge and Bunker Creek roads.

These three ranger districts encompass a total of approximately 1,075,832 acres or 1,681 square miles. On the basis of 617 miles of



Where can game escape? When areas become laced with logging roads, the hunter advantage is obviously improved.

roads for the 1,681 square miles of forest habitat, it means there is one mile of road for every 2.7 miles of land.

Presently, the Spotted Bear District, which is the largest of the three districts in the drainage with a total of 537,243 acres, has the least amount of roads. This is partly due to the fact that approximately fifty percent of this district is within the boundary of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Logging activities near Spotted Bear did not develop on a large scale until the 1960's.

The area drained by the South Fork of the Flathead River has long been regarded as one of the finest

wilderness elk hunting areas in Montana. Up to the late 1950's the Spotted Bear vicinity was the hub of outfitter activity with numerous base camps and campgrounds located in the area. Pack strings embarked from Spotted Bear for destinations in the roadless and wilderness areas.

The coming of the 1960's saw road construction starting in the Spotted Bear area. Now roads extend well beyond the Spotted Bear Ranger Station up Bunker Creek on the main South Fork. Another road extends up the Spotted Bear River to Beaver Creek, a distance of over nine miles. Both of these roads are

accompanied by spur logging roads. These road systems allow vehicle travel to reach points much nearer the wilderness area as well as provide extensive access to prime game habitat. Future plans also call for extensions of these roads to reach logging sites on both forks of Bunker Creek and to Dean Ridge on the Spotted Bear River.

With the advent of these roads much of the recreational activity is now based at Meadow Creek on the South Fork of the Flathead and Beaver Creek on the Spotted Bear River.

What effect will these roads have on the big game populations? It is a known fact that grizzly bears are wilderness creatures and are not compatible with human beings, e.g. the demise of the grizzly in the plains and foothill areas of Montana. Elk are also subject to disturbances of the same type. We have observed that one snowmobile will cause elk to retreat farther up the mountain or to more secluded wooded areas on the winter range.

Several snowmobile trips were made to Spotted Bear and each time a larger number of elk were observed on the trip to Spotted Bear than on the return trip to Coram two

or three days later. Traffic and human activities during the summer also disturb elk, especially during the calving season when they are most secretive in their habits.

Roads also improve hunter success and increase hunter pressure. When they are located in key areas where an elk migration may occur during the hunting season they may disrupt the migration pattern or put heavy hunting pressure on the migrating elk because of ease of access.

The results become quite evident in the case of Bunker Creek and Spotted Bear drainages. The 1969 hunting season was the first after the road was opened up Bunker Creek. During the period from 1957-1968 never more than five percent (and usually one or two percent) of the total South Fork elk kill was checked from the Bunker Creek area, but in 1969 over eight percent of the elk checked from the South Fork drainage came from the Bunker Creek drainage. During the period before roads were built in the Spotted Bear drainage the average number of elk killed in the drainage comprised eighteen percent of the total number of elk killed in the South Fork. In the period after the



Closing of unused logging roads to general travel would minimize the stress on game animals.

presence of a road this percentage increased to an average of slightly over twenty-two percent.

With the future plans calling for new roads and road extension in the Spotted Bear area, the future for elk, grizzly bears and goats does not look bright. Study efforts will continue to be made to evaluate the effects of the road systems on elk, goats, and grizzly bears of the areas. Closing of the roads to the general public use would permit logging and minimize stress on game animals.

Camping News

By Tony Beuchel

Gone is the old sourdough who could rough out a summer in the mountains with nothing but a blanket for sleeping and beans with a slab of bacon to fill his belly. The numbers of campers have increased by leaps and bounds since these hardy prospectors vanished from the hills, but modern campers are a new breed of cat.

Maybe the modern camper isn't soft, but he does like his comforts. His campsite must be easy to get to, preferably by automobile. He wants drinking water available and an outside fire of some kind to enjoy in the evening or to roast a weiner over. He needs sanitary facilities and someone must haul away his garbage.

Providing places and facilities for campers, repairing vandalism and keeping these places clean is an expensive affair. The cost of operations and maintenance is accomplished

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The great demands for outdoor recreation has made management of recreation areas an expensive program.

Legend: T—Toilet; TA—Table; S—Stove or fireplace; BL—Boat launching possible; W—Drinking water.

STATE PARKS

West Shore State Park, located in Lake County twenty miles south of Kalispell on U. S. Highway 94. T-TA-S-BL-W

Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park, located in Jefferson County forty-seven miles east of Butte on U. S. Highway 10. T-TA-S-W

STATE MONUMENTS

Missouri River Headwaters State Monument, located in Gallatin County five miles off Interstate Highway 90 near Three Forks. T-TA-S-BL-W

STATE RECREATION AREAS

Big Arm State Recreation Area, located in Lake County fifteen miles north of Polson on U.S. Highway 93. T-TA-S-BL-W

Bitterroot Lake State Recreation Area, located in Flathead County twenty miles west of Kalispell on U.S. Highway 2, then five miles north. T-TA-S-BL-W

Elmo State Recreation Area, located in Lake County nineteen miles north of Polson on U.S. Highway 93. T-TA-S-BL-W

Finley Point State Recreation Area, located in Lake County twelve miles northeast of Polson off State Highway 35. T-TA-S-BL-W

Logan State Recreation Area, located in Lincoln County forty-five miles west of Kalispell on U.S. Highway 2. T-TA-S-BL-W

Wayfarer's State Recreation Area, located in Flathead County south of Bigfork off State Highway 35. T-TA-S-W

Whitefish State Recreation Area, located in Flathead County three miles north of Whitefish off U.S. Highway 93. T-TA-S-BL-W

Yellow Bay State Recreation Area, located in Lake County twenty miles northeast of Polson on State Highway 35. T-TA-S-BL-W

Hooper State Recreation Area, located in Lewis and Clark County adjacent to the town of Lincoln on State Highway 200. T-TA-S-W

Canyon Ferry State Recreation Area, located in Lewis and Clark and Broadwater Counties twenty miles southeast of Helena off U.S. Highway 12. T-TA-S-BL-W

Clark Canyon State Recreation Area, located in Beaverhead County twenty miles south of Dillon on Interstate Highway 15. T-TA-S-BL-W

Ennis State Recreation Area, located in Madison County across the Madison River and town of Ennis on U.S. Highway 287. T-TA-S-BL-W

James Kipp State Recreation Area, located in Fergus County sixty-five miles north of Lewistown on U.S. Highway 191. T-TA-S-BL-W

Tiber State Recreation Area, located in Liberty and Toole Counties eighteen miles southwest of Chester off U.S. Highway 2. T-TA-S-BL-W

Deadman's Basin State Recreation Area, located in Wheatland County twenty miles east of Harlowton off U.S. Highway 12. T-TA-S-BL

FISHING ACCESS SITES

Chief Looking Glass Fishing Access Site, located in Missoula County eight miles south of Lolo off U.S. Highway 93. T-TA-S-BL-W

Turah Fishing Access Site, located in Missoula County one and one-half miles from Turah off Interstate 90. T-TA-S BL W

Bean Lake Fishing Access Site, located in Lewis and Clark County eighteen miles south of Augusta off State Highway 287. T-TA-S-BL-W

Castle Rock Fishing Access Site, located in Stillwater County eighteen miles south of Absarokee on the Stillwater River. T-TA-S-W

Indian Fort Fishing Access Site, located in Stillwater County two miles northwest of Reed Point on the Yellowstone River. T-TA-S-BL-W

Itch-Kep-Pe Fishing Access Site, located in Stillwater County one mile south of Columbus. T-TA-S-BL-W

White Bird Fishing Access Site, located in Stillwater County eight miles south of Columbus on the Stillwater River. T-TA-S-W

CAMPING NEWS

(Continued from Page 6)

mostly from annual allotments from the state's general tax fund. Some additional money is available for use on water-based parks through motor-boat fuel tax.

To supplement the allotments for use at camp areas, an overnight camping fee of \$1.00 was effected at several Montana parks June 1, 1969. The camping fee will again be levied from June 1 through Sep-

fish and game district offices. Some parks will have full time attendants where the season tickets as well as \$1.00 overnight tickets will be available. At parks where there are not full-time attendants, overnight camp fees will be on a self-service system. Signs at park entrances will indicate if there is an overnight camping fee and method of payment.

Where overnight camp permits are on a serve-yourself basis, campers are directed by a sign to an information booth where they will find instructions on how to deposit their fees in envelopes provided for that purpose. A numbered permit tab on each envelope will be retained by permittees and displayed from inside the windshield. The envelope containing camping fees will be deposited in a steel and concrete structure through a slot. Each evening, attendants will check the deposit boxes and then check camps to see that each vehicle displays a permit.

The overnight camping fee was generally well accepted during its first season. Income from overnight and season tickets in 1969 totaled near \$20,000.

ATTENTION

FEE CAMPING AREA

There is a \$1.00 charge per vehicle for overnight camping in this area. The attendant will contact you.

MONTANA FISH & GAME COMMISSION

Signs at park or recreation area entrances will indicate if there is a fee for overnight camping.

tember 15 at several state parks this year. Season permits will again be available at \$10.00 per vehicle from

ONE DAY CAMPING PERMIT



Nº 15700

Date _____/_____/_____

Car License _____ (NUMBER) _____ (STATE)

Detach This Permit Stub and Display on Dashboard of Your Vehicle or at Your Camp Unit.

In some areas, camping permits are issued on a self-service system. This stub displayed in camping vehicles affords an easy check with coin envelopes deposited in the campground area.

Overnight camping fees will be charged at the following areas June 1 through September 15, 1970:

MONTANA

FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT

HELENA, MONTANA 59601

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